



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Tornado Update

National Weather Service officials have confirmed that it was a tornado that hit Hampton Friday evening. It was first spotted in Portsmouth and traveled across the water to Hampton between Wythe and downtown. It then skipped over Mercury Boulevard with wind speeds around 85 mph in the East Hampton area around Boxwood Street.

Pirate Festival organizers have been cleaning up damage all night and are back this morning. A canopy over the stage at Mill Point Park was blown off, but the stage itself does not appear damaged. Crews are cleaning up downtown and assessing damage. Organizers are hopeful they will be able to open the festival at 2 p.m., as long as the area is deemed safe.

Dominion Power has pulled in crews from across Hampton Roads and is optimistic power can be restored to all or most by midnight tonight.

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